

### REMARKS

The indication that Claims 1-7, 9-16, 18-25, 27-30, and 32-34 are allowed is appreciatively noted. Remaining Claims 8, 17, 26, 31 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boss et al. in view of Matsumoto. In an effort to reduce the issues under consideration, applicant has deleted the rejected claims. Accordingly, since the only claims remaining are all indicated as being allowed, this case should now be in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/080,059

PATENT

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### CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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